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The BULLETIN of the National Institute for Architectural Education invites submission of manuscripts, news items, and notes from students and professionals. The reports of the competitions are presented in the BULLETIN as unofficial opinions of the authors and should not be interpreted as the collective opinion of the evaluating jury. Moreover, the N I A E cannot be held to account for any statements or opinions printed in magazine.

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GETTING DOWN TO DETAILS

BY GEORGE BEIERS

The subject of town and regional planning is engrossing but above all so immense that it is easy to understand why very few fully grasp the problems involved. Even the name city planning which is more commonly used, is a misnomer as the city can no longer be considered without considering the surrounding regions.

There appear to be three main problems. First, that there is little awareness of the change required in the conception of a city and its surrounding region. The second problem, is that the science of modern town and regional planning which has been developing over the last one hundred years is largely ignored by the powers in charge of city development. The third, and possibly the greatest problem, is actually getting it done, as there probably is no civic operation which has greater opposition and fewer proponents.

Taking the first problem, the change required in the conception of a city. We live in the twentieth century in cities planned for eighteenth century living. While one would not consider buying a horse and carriage for convenient transportation, streets planned for this form of transportation are calmly accepted. Furthermore, the width of the streets were set when houses were only four to five stories. We now have twenty to sixty story buildings on the same narrow streets. Most of the advantages of modern motor traffic are thereby denied for obvious reasons. Why is there continual stopping at traffic lights? The reason is that we are trying to adapt modern traffic to a system of streets designed for traffic of three hundred years ago. On top of this chaos we have superimposed a somewhat unrelated complex of expressways. (In this regard a pungent article by Mr. Victor Gruen also in this number makes interesting reading.) Most of the expressways when reaching the city dump large number of vehicles at one spot instead of on to secondary high level roads crossing the city area. The result is traffic constipation of some magnitude. There is only one answer multi-level roads. The "raison d'etre" of a city is concentration of people so that they can be close to one another for more efficient execution of the day's business and for the exchange of ideas; the grouping of theaters, art galleries and places of amusement so that they are immediately available to the greatest number of people; and last but not least so

that the greatest number of people can live within comfortable distance of their offices and places of enjoyment and culture. The concentration has caused buildings to be built at many times the number of stories when the city was first laid out and it is only logical that streets should also increase proportionately. All large cities need secondary multi-level roads in the city proper to make such cities more suitable in which to live and work. High level expressways on the perimeter are not enough.

The downtown area is most in need of a new approach but the whole city and surrounding region is in need of a reassessment. Placing of airfields, planning of commutation services, suburban development and other vital problems at present are dealt with as they arise, when they should have been foreseen twenty years before and space reserved for them. New and larger recreation spaces are practically ignored in the centers of cities.

The second problem is the disregard of town planning by all and sundry. Town planning languishes in a world increasingly rushing itself to death. The long-range waits on the immediate. What is urgent takes priority over what is merely important, so that the important is attended to only when it becomes urgent, which in town planning is usually too late. Realizing the urgency but not the far-reaching aspects of town planning, town councils hire a graduate town planner and put him to work on a zoning plan. The zoning plan is then followed as politically expedient with some housing schemes thrown in for good measure. The basis of successful town planning is the master plan not zoning or housing developments. Rare is the city that has anything approaching a master plan in the true sense of the word, based as it should be on social and economic studies for thirty to fifty years ahead. The fine town planners of the United States, Lewis Mumford, Clarence Stein, Louis Kahn to name a few, are seldom consulted. Lewis Mumford has much greater stature outside the United States than in it. His great book "The Culture of Cities" was a European publication in 1938.

With the current attitude towards town planning it

is small wonder that in 1958, 235 students graduated in town planning where there were 650 vacancies to be filled in town planning jobs. All the above is painfully underlined in an excellent talk given by Mr. James Lister, Director of Urban Renewal and Housing of Cleveland, at the annual meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. His description of the average architectural student's instruction in town planning would be funny if the implications were not so serious. Unless something is done, something far-reaching and efficacious, the disastrous implications are obvious. In the field of architectural education, town planning is ignored for courses which appear to have more immediate value. It may be asked why should architectural faculties concern themselves with town planning? Town planning has always been the realm of architects, L'Enfant in Washington, Haussman in Paris, Corbusier in Chandigarh and Nantes, Aalto in Sayonatsala. London heartily wishes that Sir Christopher Wren's town plan for rebuilding London after the Great Fire had been adopted instead of ignored for a rebuilding of the old streets under the pressure of impatient and somewhat suspicious businessmen. The true architect has something to offer particularly applicable in town planning because he takes more than the narrow technical view and combines imaginatively the technical with the aesthetic to obtain the most satisfying result.

It is so painfully obvious that many architectural students would be better off as town planners (for which they might have real ability) rather than frustrating themselves unsuccessfully trying to be Wrights and Mies Van der Rohes. It would not be reasonable to suggest that one architect can be a fully qualified town planner, industrial architect, hospital architect, landscape architect, and anything else that might come in the office door. Therefore, the time appears to have come when the architectural faculty should divide itself as does an engineering faculty. Engineers do a basic course and then specialize in mechanical, civic, electrical or chemical engineering.

The third problem, that of putting town and regional planning into action is probably the greatest problem of all. Town planning has so much against it politically. Out of a total population of approximately 180 millions in the U.S.A. 130 million live in urban areas but in most state governments the majority is controlled by rural population. In some cases a rural population comprising as little as 14% of the total, con-

trols the senate majority. This influence becomes very obvious when it becomes a question of allocating state funds for urban development.

When anything of such an overall nature as a proper town plan which includes the outlying regions is proposed, there are usually many powerful opponents and comparatively few proponents. A mayor pushing a town planning scheme is faced with some formidable political opposition at a time when he is fighting for something which would take two to five years to plan and which may not show real advantage to the city for another ten or fifteen years when he will be out of office. The full fruits of the town plan would be attained probably twenty-five years to fifty years later when the mayor not only is out of office but dead and buried. So it is easy to see how much easier it is to settle for a little street widening here, a housing development there, without treading on too many corns. Particularly, when the bulk of the people do not know what town planning is anyway, and the preparation of a proper scheme can run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. So we have to educate the public on the advantages to be gained, in other words to sell it first. The anomalous position of cities in the United States is underlined by the position of New York. In common with other cities it provides very much more tax money to the state treasury than it gets back. The city is not even allowed to levy taxes within its own boundaries without the consent of the state government, often not forthcoming. There is an even greater anomaly. New York to the rest of the world is the capital in the sense that London and Paris are capitals. It is the center of the theater, opera, the greatest array of art galleries, restaurants, where all the large corporations have if not a head office, an impressive office, and all the important foreign corporations of the world have an office of some sort. Yet this city for all the riches that it represents, the city that means the United States to the rest of the world, in the last two years had difficulty in finding enough money for the upkeep of the few trees on the streets. But, if the Federal Government were to underwrite the improvement by town planning of this city the cries of anguish would be heard from Florida Keys to Seattle, asking why should money be given for such purpose to New York. So in addition to providing state funds, New York has to put on a show for the rest of the world out of a seriously pinched treasury.

A town plan means that sites for schools, office areas, hospitals, airports, industrial developments

and housing are laid down for twenty-five to fifty years ahead. This of course cuts down speculation which arouses the opposition of one of the most powerful organizations in the United States, namely the realtors. A town plan also means condemning large tracts of lands for purposes other than their current uses, and possible future uses. This arouses the opposition of still another powerful group, the landowners. A very good example of this opposition is shown by the strong resentment in New York by realtors and landowners of the comparatively mild rezoning plan proposed by the city. And this plan is nowhere near as much a replanning as would be necessary for a fully developed town plan.

Strangely, the greatest opponents of town planning, the realtors and landowners, have the most to gain. If we continue developing in the present haphazard manner much valuable real estate will become worthless with loss to the owner and lower commissions to realtors handling such depressed real estate. An interesting illustration of this is

the recent development of shopping malls in cities such as Toledo and Kalamazoo. Thirty or more years ago this type of development was proposed by town planners. They foresaw the decay of downtown areas. The business men ridiculed the proposal. The result was that many successful downtown businesses were ruined by people refusing to shop in the congestion of downtown and instead shopped whenever possible in the suburbs. The final blow to downtown was the super-shopping center. Not only stores were affected but real estate values.

The remedy for lack of interest, apathy and opposition to town planning, is going to be a slow process, because the only answer to the problem is education of public, realtors and landowners. As previously pointed out, education in this field is in rather a stagnant state. A determined effort must be made by architects and educational bodies to correct this grievous state of affairs to the point where cities will become beautiful and desirable places in which to live, work and play.

"ACHIEVEMENT IN THE BUILDING ARTS"

From the panel discussion on Health and Recreation at the Architectural League of New York in conjunction with their program for the 61st National Gold Medal Exhibition of the Building Arts.

Presentation by VICTOR GRUEN

I have been asked to say a few words about one of the apartment projects exhibited here, namely the Wilshire Terrace Luxury Apartment Building in Los Angeles.

I am using the term, luxury, with some embarrassment. Luxury, according to Webster means "an expensive rarity." But in our daily usage, this meaning has been lost. Listening to television commercials, for example, I have concluded that presently only deluxe products are available on the market and that the production of standard goods has ceased completely.

From reading the real estate pages, one gains a similar impression. Nearly all apartments constructed today in New York are "Deluxe". Upon inspection, however, one finds that even the super-luxurious ones, though their rents sometimes make them an expensive rarity, have basically the same old floor plans, the

same skimpy room sizes, the same depressing room heights, the same window patterns and corridor sizes, follow the same design and construction methods which are common to all apartment construction from public housing projects to so-called middle-income housing. It is usually only in the number of rooms and the plushness of lobbies where a difference is discernible.

Wilshire Terrace, however, deserves the term, "luxury", in its old-fashioned sense to a much larger degree. It has living units with generous room sizes, with higher than usual ceilings, and with unorthodox floor plans which provide greater flexibility, and as far as the arrangement of rooms is concerned, are more akin to the plans of custom-made good sized houses.

The rooms are arranged in a U-shape around individual two-story high patios and living rooms,

dining rooms and bedrooms open by means of large sliding doors to this private garden area. Thus, an unusually large degree of privacy is accomplished.

The building is centrally air-conditioned (without the use of window units), it features large, all electric kitchens, it has spacious bathrooms and dressing rooms. Each apartment has a wood-burning fireplace in the living room and a barbecue pit in the two-story high patio area. Service traffic is strictly separated by the arrangement of special service elevators with a separate service lobby from which the kitchens of all apartments are accessible. Instead of the usual narrow and long corridors, there are spacious, wide lobbies serving two to three apartments as entrance halls. The common facilities also go far beyond the usual. An underground garage of two levels provides two parking spaces for each living unit, and is connected by elevators with all apartment lobbies on all floors. There is a spacious park for the use of the apartment owners and their guests with rest benches, sunning terrace, fountains in the rear of the building above the garage. There is a large swimming pool with restaurant and coffee shop, dressing rooms and all other auxiliary facilities in front of the building.

Though many of the apartments have individual maids' rooms, there is a group of fifty maids' rooms on the first floor of the structure in order to enable the building to furnish maid service. Other services of the hotel type are available. They include switchboard, reception desk, valet service, parcel receiving room, theater and travel reservation service, catering service, etc.

Wilshire Terrace is a cooperative project developed by the Tishman Realty and Construction Company. The superior design and services are reflected, of course, in the cost of the apartments which are in a range of forty to one hundred thousand dollars as initial sales price. The monthly operating and mortgage service costs, however, are reasonable.

A building of this type offers, of course, rich opportunities for the cooperation of the building arts. Landscaping, interior design, sculpture and color treatments have been integrated from the beginning with architectural concepts.

The building, however, is significant for other reasons: Los Angeles, as you know, denotes a

certain part of southern California (I am intentionally avoiding the term "city") which is covered to a higher degree than other parts with an endless sprawl of subdivisions containing detached houses. They range from small, usually referred to as "dingbats", to large mansions sitting in their own estates of many acres. There are nearly as many swimming pools in Los Angeles as there are hot dog stands and drive-ins.

The entire loose, sub-suburban pattern is effectively cut into pieces by broad freeways which feature on certain spots multi-level and highly confusing cloverleaves. Here and there throughout the area can be found formations of buildings which resemble imitations of urban crystallization types. They contain office buildings, medical buildings, stores and hotels. They are usually referred to as centers or villages or neighborhoods. One of these neighborhoods carries the name "Downtown".

The continuous sprawl is arrested on one side - to the great unhappiness of real estate developers - by the Pacific ocean, but proceeds happily on all other sides swallowing up large patches of agricultural land and desert, and flowing into similar sprawls which are other communities like Long Beach or Pasadena. Altogether it represents an amorphous, disorganized, settlement and working area for human beings.

Los Angeles, of all cities in the United States, does most completely represent a pattern created by the private automobile. It has given its heart and soul to the fin-tailed land cruiser and the sports car. It has, during the last twenty years, destroyed whatever there was of rapid transit transportation and maintains today only sparse bus service to those who for some unimaginable reason cannot drive or do not own a car.

The Wilshire Terrace building is one of the expressions of the many symptoms which point to the fact that this type of sprawling development has reached a deadend. Within the last few years, it has happened, for the first time in Los Angeles' history, that building permits for apartments have, as to their value, outnumbered the building permits given for detached homes. Los Angeles is now engaged in planning a new rapid transit system. For the first time in almost thirty years substantial building activity can be noted in the downtown neighborhood.

What does all this mean?

People have gotten tired of driving endless distances to see their friends (they are referred to as neighbors in Los Angeles if they don't live more than four miles away). They are fed up with the driving over long distances to their shopping, to visit the doctor, to go to the bank, to have lunch or dinner at a restaurant, to go to and return from work. The impressive freeway construction program is now recognized as not solving the problem. Congestion on them has become so frequent the drivers listen continuously and attentively to the hourly bulletins of the traffic department concerning traffic conditions on various freeway sections.

Mothers are disenchanted with the fact that they have become chauffeurs driving their various children to various schools, kindergartens and private classes.

Executives living in elegant subdivisions find that they have to spend their free time working as chauffeurs for various cooks, butlers, laundresses and the people who have to fix the plumbing or do repairs.

The fact that Wilshire Terrace is successful is symptomatic of the fact that this state of dissatisfaction has affected the rich. Nearly all of the inhabitants of Wilshire Terrace are people who formerly resided in typical southern California fashion in plush mansions with park-like gardens, swimming pools and all the other features which are regarded in that area as essential for a gracious life.

By moving into Wilshire Terrace, they got rid of expenses which were even too large for them, but most of all, they got rid of the endless, nerve-racking worries of how to get a gardener or a maid or a swimming pool maintenance man or a repair man, and they got rid of a good portion of their driving and chauffeuring problems.

Wilshire Terrace is located near one of those suburban crystallization points with luxury stores along Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills, with a number of big, new hotels, movies, theaters and even some art galleries.

Wilshire Terrace thus represents "mansions in the air", each one with its own little garden, carefully sheltered from its neighbor. But these mansions are easy to take care of as far as housekeeping and upkeep are concerned, because of the services provided within the building.

To what degree the inhabitants of Wilshire Terrace regard their domiciles as private mansions is revealed by the care and by the amount of expenditure which went into the furnishing of them. Most of the interiors were designed by well-known architects and interior decorators with expenditures of up to \$200, 000 per apartment.

Wilshire Terrace is, as we fully realize, an exceptional building. The market for such luxury type apartments, even in southern California, is not inexhaustible. However, many of its design features and its service arrangements could easily be applied in somewhat modified form to use for a much broader portion of the population. In this, I believe, lies the true significance of this project.

NOTES * NOTICES * INFORMATION

ACCOLADE FOR MAX H. FOLEY

Max H. Foley, Chairman of the Board of Standards and Appeals, was honored by the Architects, Engineers and Designers Division of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, at their annual luncheon for the network of 116 health and welfare agencies, Wednesday, December 9, 1959 at the Sheraton-East Hotel. Mr. Foley, a well-liked and widely respected member of his profession, was honored for his devoted interest in the welfare of his fellow-men.

FOR CALIFORNIAN STUDENTS

A. I. A. State Board Examinations in Mechanics of Materials and Structural Engineering - examination questions and solutions are available in book form from Tam's Books, Inc., 725 West Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles 7, Calif.

Books

For those interested in contemporary painting, a new biography "Marcel Duchamp" by Robert Lebel has recently been released and highly acclaimed.

"ACHIEVEMENT IN THE BUILDING ARTS" (continued)

DESIGN FOR RECREATION

Presentation by VICTOR LUNDY

Beauty touches something very deep in us all and should somehow be made a part of everyone's life.

I think it has become obvious that whether we like it or not, we have to spend some time and energy and thought to gaining the respect of the world by our big cultural image - not the individual flashes of brilliance that are there now - but the big face image of America that is a thing of fact - that we all see and live in and that can't be explained away. It is there for all the world to see, and it isn't a very pretty picture. Travelers in the States come away with an impression of a great hodge-podge, much of it ugly. We ruin our material beauty - our natural resources, where virtually all of the European countries have deliberately conserved and utilized their land. In Great Britain, land use maps and plans are developed which cover every square inch of the country. For every man who dedicates his life and work with a sense of responsibility to beauty, to doing the right thing, with thought for his fellow man, - there are hundreds of the vultures whose every waking moment is dedicated to the dollar - with no thought for the scores of people and little children who will have to look at, live in or beside, and be influenced by, an environment of ugliness. What a tragedy when we have the talent, national drive, technology, wealth and natural resources to give real beauty and happiness to everybody! The "little man" with all his faults, finally supports what is decent, human and right, and he is worthy of the best we can give him.

Ours is a time of plenty. The potential is here to give beauty to everyone, and yet it is denied them. What do we do about all of this?

First, what is needed is the initial raw recognition of the necessity for beauty as a total thing in our life and an understanding of what real beauty is - an awakening to the necessity of making beauty an integral part of our thinking - and this will take real education and growth of real values. It will take an awareness and a fierce relentless kind of pride that Americans are supposed to be famous for.

It will come down to some self-denial.

There can be no real collaboration except among men who really have the same dedicated goal in mind, and then we can have real working partnerships in the design of cities and urban surroundings - real functioning teams composed of land site planner, architect, landscape architect, banker, manufacturer, besides the builder. Why not a universal beauty that comes out of every-thing we do because it is what we live by - a reawakening moral fibre in our American people that readmits beauty as an integral part of our life and culture, and recreation that we refuse to do without.

Maybe we in America can finally restore the "artist", be he builder, master craftsman, architect, landscape architect, purveyor and executor of beauty in every manner and field to his rightful place in our society, as we have finally recognized the scientist.

Recreation - "Re-Creating"

Recreation has to do with renewal - rebirth. "Re"creation, the ever-enlarging area of our lives - here the opportunity to recharge, to renew, to stimulate. Building for recreation is an area for beauty to touch the lives of many people. Here the area where people are most open - most ready to receive the influence of a work of art - new emotional experience that will stay with them to take back - to make them dissatisfied with the pattern environment of their normal life.

Here is the opportunity for the creative architect to influence for the better, at a time when people are seeking just that, when their guards are down - ready to receive.

With the ever-increasing number of leisure hours - re-creating hours in prospect for the American People - here are the structures and the environment places that reach more people than any other. When an instrument

for lessons in beauty - at the best possible - most receptive attitude time in the human being.

At the same time, if it needs be mentioned, and it must of course in our society, and economy, real beauty pays off in commercial recreational facilities. Every human being reacts in the deepest, strongest way to new and wonderful emotional experiences, perhaps a first introduction for many, to the miracles of space enclosure, of lovely materials, of the possibilities and new dimensions of total environment -- that point out suddenly and strongly, introduce beauty sometimes for the first time and make people dissatisfied with what they have had and want to come back for more.

Like the experience of sitting in the beautiful tent in Aspen, Colorado, on a bright sunny day with the active clouds above moving shadows across the bright warm canvas -- listening to great music and great musicians -- seeing a butterfly from below flutter by over the canvas -- a total memorable experience in a magnificent mountain setting.

Design for Recreation -- What an instrument for influencing good taste and advancing the cause of beauty and the level of its appreciation in this country.

Making the most of the heritage of beauty and strength in the history of this country - like the tour of the fine old buildings in Newport, R. I., places like Old Sturbridge, Massachusetts, the old whalers at Mystic, Connecticut, Williamsburg - to the old Indian pueblos of the Southwest - New Mexico, Old Santa Fe - the heritage of beauty in California, and so on - all national monuments. All people love the sense of make-believe and walking in the past - re-creating - what an influence for the good this is, to make them pause and reflect and

NOTES * NOTICES * INFORMATION

A COMMENDATION FOR THE NIAE FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE ACSA

The NIAE was extremely flattered by the following reference from Chairman Anderson's address to the 44th annual meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, referring to the possible desirability of independent non-collegiate schools of architecture he said, "I should like to see a few non-collegiate schools in the U. S. An

live again in the strength of the past - and this not a thing of Europe or of a self-deprecating snobbery that has to do with chastising everything American.

Anyone who has seen the interior of the Old Quaker Meeting House at Old Sturbridge comes away richer. It is a thing of simplicity, completely New England, simple, quiet on the outside, warm inside; strong beautiful materials, wood, well built and enduring, an enduring timeless little building, a lesson in beauty to all.

Or, recreation in the sense of replenishing - renewal. Anyone who has sat in a Paris cafe for hours sipping wine and watching the people go by, or sat in the great Piazza di San Marco in Venice, or been to Tivoli in Copenhagen, or watched little bare kids swimming in the Mediterranean under the shadow of a Roman bath ruin, or walked along the shore in Newport past the huge colossi of the Fitzgerald time, passing fishermen wet to the bone casting into the breakers in the warm sun, knows the meaning of the sense of recreation in the highest dimension. And this is the sense we have to design for.

Recreation has to do with joy - laughing, smiling, beauty, lying on the grass in the sun and looking up into the sky, and at the clouds.

All of this has to do with going back to original principles, piercing through the artifices of our life and civilization, a search for purity - man looking at his original image.

Architecture, beauty, truth, great art, then, are for people, for us all. Let's bring it back to them so that they can all enjoy it everywhere in their lives, in their play, in their homes, in all the things they do all day - all the time.

organization like the NIAE would be in a good position to make a school strongly oriented toward practice, whereas others like Cranbrook could carry a great emphasis on the interrelationship of the visual arts. Needless to say, three or four years of liberal college education should in most cases precede study at such a school."

"ACHIEVEMENT IN THE BUILDING ARTS" (continued)

RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT

Presentation by DAVID AARON

Someone once said: "Play is the work of children." Child-development specialists recognize that the child makes no definite distinction between work and play. The concept of free play as a means of education is well established: it is a child's career his life's work.

The concept of the community playground and how it serves the needs of our children must grow to keep pace with the progress of our push-button era. Elimination of many of the daily activities of living that have traditionally contributed to the physical development of children have made even minimum physical development a problem today: the child no longer chops or carries wood, hauls water, shovels coal or snow, pushes a pump handle, pulls a wagon, climbs stairs or even walks to school.

According to the research of the play schools association, of the 8760 hours in a year, a child attends school for 1200 hours, sleeps 3000 hours and of the remaining 4560 hours he can spend 1900 hours in playground activity.

The playground materials that still predominate were developed in that past era when living was a more rigorous process. Contemporary equipment no longer can remain mere gaudy modifications of obsolete designs, developed to serve as simple diversions in outdoor gymnasiums.

Today the neighborhood playground and a scheduled play period at school are the total resources available to most of our children for physical development activity.

Densely populous urban developments which house two-thirds of our nation have divorced the child from trees, woods, streams, rocks and all natural play settings. Traffic hazards have limited his personal movements to a few supposedly safe streets near his home.

No longer can he roam a small, comprehensible community and its outskirts at will. No longer is his body development an unnoticed process of work and play. A way of life has disappeared for the child yet his basic instinct for play remains the same

Since the old places where he played are gone, how can we put healthy exertion back into our paradoxically fast moving and yet inactive lives? The only sensible method of getting children to do anything is to stimulate a desire from within. To pursue best this process we deal with the most active and fertile aspect of childhood - imagination.

The child instinctively plays at adventure and exploration, at being a hunter or the hunted, at being a protector or the protected, at being a man or a woman. He is an explorer and a learner. He is body-conscious and expresses himself dynamically. His ideas are basically something to do or make. An idea activates him, learning by doing is a basic tenet of elementary education. In the doing, the body and mind develop.

A tall post is a challenge. The child wants to see how high he can climb. But on the way up he is also the native from his geography lesson clipping a cocoanut palm; the monkey he saw at the zoo; a scout looking for Indians. On the way down he is a fireman from the fire house; the sailor going to his station; Robin Hood from last night's television adventure. The unadorned physical challenge was short-lived but the imaginings and drama keep him climbing.

The child is a natural commando. He likes to live in a dramatic obstacle course that offers adventure and excitement. He naturally incorporates song, story, drawing, dance, with learning as an everyday means of expression. He is sensitive to color, form, line, texture, shape and size. Aesthetic needs are an integral aspect of all his experience.

In keeping with the highest objectives of recreation philosophy, a child's participation in playground activity contributes to the development of his social attitudes and aesthetic sensibilities as well as his body. A child can spend more hours at his neighborhood playground each year than in school. Playground activity is one of the few continually available, self-directed community experiences open to children and as such contributes to a sound foundation for adult participation in civic life.

The materials in a playground must help this happen through the natural learning process of creative play. If the playground cannot stimulate this process in our constricted society, the child's potentialities for growth will never be fulfilled.

The neighborhood playground, conceived as a beautiful functional design can serve as an esthetic focal point for the entire community, as a constant source of pleasure to adults watching the child-community constructively at play, it remains a living tribute from the present generation of adults to children who will make the future.

My background as a sculptor and as designer specializing in the development of materials used in the field of early childhood educational programs, has led my thinking toward a direction which resulted in the evolution of the playscape idea.

As the city block or neighborhood cluster rather than the individual house, has become the smallest element of architectural planning, so must the total playground be developed as a single cohesive architectural element rather than a bunching of apparatus.

A playscape developed for a N. Y. C. Housing Project used 1250 sq. ft of a one and a half acre plot as a recreation area for the family, toddlers, children, parents and grandparents. The playscape area accommodated fifty-six children playing at once not standing in line waiting to use materials, but actively playing. The playscape concept is an integration of mass-produced, interrelated play devices with a site-built landscape plan. The plan provides safety, controls, economic benefits, visual

coordination, and supplementary play facilities that amplify the play potentials of the equipment.

A playscape can be designed with an adventure concept conducive to self-directed physical development and personality growth through dramatic, creative, socially stimulating activity.

To simplify the planning and production of playscapes I developed five basic family groups of equipment, each involving different basic physical and dramatic play activities; Tree things, rock climbing things, shelter-like and vehicle-like things, a giant size alphabet fence, vine climbing things. Most important is that all the pieces are designed on an age-graded basis: 18 months to 3 years; 3 to 5 years, 5 to 7; 7 to 10; etc. each piece designed for individual or group play.

There is one underlying theory relative to the design of all pieces; let the equipment remain stationary and let the kids do the moving. The designs provide for varying moods. Abstract forms allow the child to bring his needs into the picture. The design of each family group provides the wide selection of simple to complex climbing possibilities - children of limited skills need not be excluded from playing but may participate on their own level. Separation between age-group clusters is sometimes achieved by changing the ground level. This adds visual interest, inhibits running between areas, eliminating major source of playground injuries. In playscape design the most important element is the space between the shapes rather than the shapes themselves. And as architecture is not complete until there are people in it, the playscape is given meaning only by children playing in it. It is not complete without them.

NOTES * NOTICES * INFORMATION

THE WILLIAM CHARNEY VLADECK MEMORIAL COMPETITION

Subject of this competition "A Public Housing Unit for Elderly Citizens in New York City".

Eligibility - fourth and fifth year undergraduate students in recognized schools of architecture in the State of New York.

Prizes - First \$500; Second \$200; Third \$100; 5 Honorable Mentions \$25 each.

Announcements of awards will be released promptly after the judgment to all newspapers and housing

publications. Presentation of awards will be made at a meeting sponsored by the Citizens' Housing and Planning Council of New York, Inc.

Details obtainable from: The William Charney Vladeck Memorial Competition, c/o The Citizens' Housing and Planning Council of New York, Inc. 20 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y.

The competition closes and submissions must be postmarked or express receipt stamped not later than 12 midnight - May 16, 1960.

NOTES * NOTICES * INFORMATION
(concluded)

HOORAY FOR HARPER'S!

The following extract is from the February 1960 issue of Harper's Magazine, from an article "A Good House Nowadays is Hard to Find" by A. M. Watkins former editor of "House & Home". (Copyright, 1960, by Harper & Brothers)

"The main reason for poorly designed houses - as opposed to poor construction - is that few builders employ architects. According to the American Institute of Architects, only 15 to 17 per cent of all development houses are designed by architects. Many builders feel that an architect is an unnecessary expense. This in turn is largely because of obsolete financing and appraisal methods. Most buildings require financing. When they show up at the bank, plans and cost sheets in hand, the typical banker cares little about whether the house is really well designed. Nor will he give the builder much credit for the architect's fee listed on the cost sheet.

"The same goes for appraisers who will rarely give a house extra value for loan purposes just because it is handsome and well designed. Some appraisers, in fact, cannot tell the difference. A handsome house may have been designed by Frank Lloyd Wright but it will get no more appraisal value than the same-size house designed by a local carpenter. As a matter of fact, many architects charge that good design is often penalized by a cut in appraisal value because conservative financing people fear that contemporary design is not a good bet for resale purposes. Thus, the outmoded views of bankers and appraisers - whose underlying importance in building is often overlooked - is a widespread reason for mediocre design.

"Unfortunately, many architects will not work with builders. Some consider builders crass and insensitive. Others charge that builders do not understand the intensive planning required to design a good house. Therefore the builder begrudges the architect a fair fee. Interestingly enough, one architect points out that designing a really good small house is one of the toughest design jobs you can ask an architect to tackle.

(Architects and future architects please note. ED.)

"On the other hand, builders sometimes become disgusted with architects after trying them once. Some architects, it turns out, are long on aesthetics but

short on construction knowledge, or so the builders charge. About the only encouraging report from the architect-builder front comes from a spokesman of the American Institute of Architects who says that some progress is finally being made in breaking down the long-standing barriers between architects and builders.

"In fairness to both sides, it should be stated that building houses today is a highly complex and technical job. Much technical knowledge is required. Few people by themselves can be expected to know all there is to know about the many structural and mechanical aspects of construction. A few builders can afford the technical staffs that would be required. "

"CONCEPT"

The N I A E received notice of a praiseworthy effort by the students of the University of Notre Dame. Their aim is to organize a seminar which they have named "Concept". The seminar will consist of students and teachers from schools throughout the United States.

In conjunction with the seminar an exhibition is planned comprising work that will best exemplify what is currently being done at their institutions. In their proposal for the seminar they state: "... it is imperative that this be done so as not to lose the underlying idea of bringing together, on a national scale, the students and professors of Architectural Schools, in the hope that each individual will gain a good cross-section view of what is being done throughout the nation. Through such a seminar climatic influences, teaching methods, rendering techniques, and personal opinions will be seen and felt by all present. This impact will be tremendous and cannot but help to improve the floundering student in his quest for knowledge. "

Unfortunately the seminar has been postponed as the proposed time would have classed with previously organized architectural gatherings and the national convention. It is to be hoped that the students will persevere and eventually hold the proposed seminar.

Meanwhile, it should be noted that another avenue to achieve their purpose is open to them through the Bulletin of the N I A E, the aims of which are to provide a forum for presenting in print just such opinions and thoughts of the students in the U. S. A.

THE PROBLEM OF EDUCATION AND ITS BUILDINGS

The following are a few highlights in the nation's problem of schools and what shall we do about them.

Excerpt from a Talk at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

If education is really sound, the student should be able to "go it alone," was the opinion of J. Lloyd Trump, Director of the Commission on the Experimental Study of the Utilization of the Staff in the Secondary School, University of Illinois, Urbana, expressed at a conference on "New Schools for New Education" held at the University of Michigan.

"Instead of encouraging independent study," he said, "we mother the student at every step of the journey. We ring bells to send him to class. We lock the doors of the library so he can't get in. We organize instruction so thoroughly that there are few opportunities for growth of independent responsibility. Then we wonder why, when the student goes out on the job after graduation, he shows so little initiative."

Trump stressed the student's need to develop an inquiring mind. "Much of our education is organized so that the more education you have, the more closed your mind becomes. Students also have great need to find satisfaction in learning. Students should be able to make more immediate self-appraisals, using a variety of machines and self-marking tests, instead of waiting for teachers to grade their work."

"Obviously, there should be independent evaluation by the faculty, but this ought to occupy a less important position than it does now. Teachers need more time to plan evaluations that will be helpful to students in showing progress toward achieving all the purposes of instruction rather than merely the possession of facts."

Educators and architects should design buildings and educational programs which will be more flexible in meeting student needs, said Mr. Trump. He suggested five areas in which educators and architects should seek greater flexibility:

1. Class size; 2. Curriculum; 3. Scheduling;
4. Staffing; 5. Technological aids.

All of the above affect space requirements of the school, Mr. Trump stated. "We need space where individuals can study - laboratories, libraries,

individual carrells where the student can study. Now the only place the student can call his own is a steel locker.

"We need space where 12 or 13 people can get together. We need space for large groups, say 250 or 500. We don't need large classrooms for standard-size groups. Designing for these new schools, we actually come out with less space than is now used in the conventional school. So maybe we can save the taxpayer some money! We also need space for teachers. This is ignored in many modern buildings. Teachers need some place where they will have privacy, group meetings, where they can find books and clerical help available.

Excerpt from "Here They Learn"

This is the title of the first annual report of the Educational Facilities Laboratories, Inc. from which the following excerpts are given as they are of interest to architects and schools. The mission of this organization is set forth in its Certificate of Incorporation, as follows:

1. To encourage improvements in school and college facilities;
2. To stimulate research in all fields relating to the planning and building of educational facilities;
3. To collect and disseminate information about educational institution site selection, planning, design, construction, modernization, equipping, and financing;
4. To administer funds for such purposes;
5. To establish or operate one or more centers to assist American educational institutions with their physical problems.

EFL's activities can be sorted into four general categories:

- I Overall Institutional Planning
- II Design and Construction of the Elements
- III The Tools
- IV Increasing the Public Knowledge.

Copies of this report may be obtained from the offices of Educational Facilities Laboratories, Inc. 477 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.

Excerpt: Texas A&M College - News

The Texas Engineering Experiment Station News for September 1959 carries news of a grant by the Education Facilities Laboratories, Inc. to conduct a study on the feasibility of using limited shelters for physical education.

The project will include an analysis of what is being taught in physical education and how existing facilities are actually being used. The study will involve a survey and analysis of existing structures in schools and in industry that relate to the problem to determine what contributions those structures offer toward the solutions of physical education problems.

New Buildings for Yale

In two new colleges being built by Eero Saarinen for Yale University, for the exterior, he and his associates have chosen masonry walls, and have specified that new technological methods be used in building these walls. Crushed stone will first be dumped into the wall molds and then high strength grout cement mortar will be pumped through hoses inserted in the form wall between stones. After the wall has set and outer form removed, the wall will be washed under pressure to expose some of the stones. "In character and texture, these warm greyish monolithic walls will be somewhat like the walls of old Pennsylvania houses where worn plaster reveals the stone-work, or the stone walls of the Cotswold in England," according to a statement by Mr. Saarinen.

In this statement Mr. Saarinen mentions "The Butter-ies" old English name for student lounge and snack bars. The two new colleges "will have special rooms, cellar-type rooms with round oak tables, serving snacks and soft drinks during off-hours. It is hoped that these rooms will be the places where close contact between Fellows and students will be made, where conversation, argument and debate will go on until the long hours of night. It is also hoped that television will be kept out of these rooms, so that they become centers of conversation and discussion rather than areas where people sit drugged by canned entertainment."

Coal

An industry deserving high praise for its strong and enlightened use of research to bring it from an ailing financial position to a healthy one is the coal industry.

We have received many of the publications of the Bituminous Coal Institute and noted the interesting developments. As a result of the research, coal is proving the most economical investment in many areas for schools, hospitals, and industrial plants.

AN INTERESTING APPLICATION OF AIR-CONDITIONING.

Seven historic theaters, representing nearly one quarter of New York's entire Broadway legitimate theater district, will be mechanically air conditioned for the first time by next summer, it was jointly announced today by theater owner J. J. Shubert and Worthington Corporation, makers of the air-conditioning equipment. An ingeniously designed hook-up will link all seven theaters to a master air conditioning system, which will be located out of sight under famed Shubert Alley.

The theaters, whose 7,999 seats, make this installation the largest single theatrical air conditioning installation ever devised, will continue in operation while the installation is going on, with the new system due to be turned on by spring of 1960.

The new system replaces ice-chilling systems where up to \$6,000 worth of ice a week, in 350 pound chunks, has been required to cool the seven theaters during hot weather. The new system will cost one-tenth as much to operate, according to Worthington engineers, and will not only cool but will regulate humidity and provide the other advantages of air conditioning.

METAL STAIRS

An excellent handbook by the National Association of Architectural Metal Manufacturers includes details and designs of a variety of metal stairs. Unfortunately while one recognizes the work of leading architects such as Saarinen, in the handbook, no credit is given to architects.

We also received from the National Association of Architectural Metal Manufacturers their metal curtain wall manual containing specifications and other reference material. The manual is available to schools and architects.

FROM SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

A copy of Architectural Science Review was received. The Review is devoted to the engineering problems related to architecture. Published tri-annually by the Academic Press, 310 George St., Sydney, Australia. Annual subscription is \$4.75. A cross section of the articles follows:

"The Design of Architectural Structures with the Aid of Models" by H. J. Cowan, M.Sc., Ph.D., A.M.I.E. Aust., A.M.I. Struct. E., M.A., Soc. C. E., Professor of Architectural Science, Univ. of Sydney.

"Cement Content of Concrete as a Factor in the Corrosion of Reinforcement" by Rahel Shalon, M.Sc., C.E., M.A.E.A. (Israel), Professor of Civil Engineering and Head of the Building Research Station, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel.

"Window and Ventilator Openings in Warm and Humid Climates" by O. H. Koenigsberger, Dr. Ing., F.I.I.A., F.I.T.P. (India), A.M.T.P.I., Director of the Department of Tropical Architecture, AA School of Architecture, London; and J. S. Millar, B.A.I., M.E., Institute of Technology, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. U.S.A.

"On the Design of Prestressed Suspension Roofs" by W. Zerna, Dr. Ing., Professor of Concrete Structures at the Technical University, Hannover, Germany.

"Tropical Hygiene and Its Influence on Architectural Design" by R. E. Murray, M.B., B.Sc., D.T.M., D.P.H., School of Public Health, Univ. of Sydney.

"The Indoor and Outdoor Environment" by E. T. Weston, B.Sc., A.M.I.E. Aust., Assistant Projects Officer, Commonwealth Experimental Building Station, Sydney.

"Design Techniques in the Humid and Dry Tropics" by E. Maxwell Fry, F.R.I.B.A., Senior Partner, Fry, Drew, Drake and Lasdun, Archts., London.

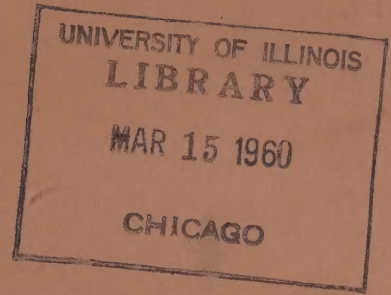
"Modern Grid Structures" by Z. Makowski, Ph.D., Dipl. Ing., D.I.C., Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, England.

THE NEXT ISSUE WILL CONTAIN THE RESULTS
OF THE FALL TERM COMPETITION PROBLEMS.

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
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The Bulletin

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